

CLAIMS

1. A food supportive device for use in heating or cooking food in a microwave oven including:

5 a plurality of food contact areas elevated from and substantially integral to a foundation that enables the support of food placed directly on the contact areas,

wherein spaces are formed between the elevated contact areas and the foundation enabling the escape of moisture from the food being heated or
10 cooked.

2. A food supportive device according to claim 1, wherein the foundation include one or more supports interconnected to each food contact area.

15 3. A food supportive device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the foundation includes a base.

4. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the spaces form a conduit for the venting of moisture from the food.

20 5. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the height of food contact areas is from about 10mm to about 15mm.

25 6. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the food contact areas are arranged in an array.

7. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the food contact areas form a pattern.

30 8. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein moisture is expelled substantially isotropically from the spaces when the food is heated or cooked in the microwave oven.

9. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the food supportive device is made from polymers, paper, paperboard or cardboard.

5 10. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the supportive device is formed by a moulding process.

11. A food supportive device according to claims 10, wherein the supportive device is made from PET or *papier-mâché*.

10 12. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the supportive device includes folds.

13. A food supportive device according to claim 12, wherein the folds are
15 formed by origami methods.

14. A food supportive device according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the supportive device is compactable.

20 15. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the supportive device includes a series of folded concertina-like flutes.

16. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the supportive device is made of paper, plastic film or cardboard.

25 17. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 12 to 16, wherein the supportive device includes a base which folds like a book and the food contact areas pop-up when the base is opened into operative form.

30 18. A food supportive device according to claim 17, where the food contact areas are cut-out in the base and are elevated when the base is opened into operative form.

19. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the supportive device is used to heat or cook pizzas, parathas or pastries.

20. A food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein 5 the supportive device includes advertising or indicia.

21. A method of heating and cooking food in a microwave oven including the step of:
10 placing a food item on a food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 20 into a microwave oven, and
microwaving the food product.

22. A food package including:
15 a food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 20, and
a closure attachable to the supportive device to define a cavity therebetween.

23. A food package according to claim 22, wherein an airtight seal is formed when the closure is attached to the supportive device.

24. A food package including:
20 a food supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 20,
an open base adapted to receive the supporting device, and
a closure attachable to the open base to define a cavity therebetween.

25. A food package according to claim 24, wherein an airtight seal is formed when the closure is attached to the base.

26. A method of drying food including the step of placing food onto the food 30 supportive device according to any one of claims 1 to 20 and microwaving the food on the supportive device until the food is dry.